



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TWO U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENTS CHARGED
BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTMENT WITH ASSAULT CHARGES**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that today a federal grand jury in El Paso returned a three-count indictment charging two U.S. Border Patrol agents with assault charges.

The indictment charges Ignacio Ramos (a.k.a. "Nacho") and Jose Alonso Compean with assault with intent to commit murder, assault with serious bodily injury and assault with a deadly weapon. Upon conviction of all charges, each defendant faces up to 40 years in federal prison.

According to the criminal complaint, on or about February 17, 2005, a Mexican National attempting to flee back into Mexico near Fabens, Texas, was shot at by the defendants. Compean fired approximately 12 rounds from his service pistol; Ramos fired approximately two times from his service pistol striking the victim. Ballistics testing confirmed that the bullet which struck the victim was from Ramos' service weapon.

This case is being investigated by the office of Inspector General - Department of Homeland Security. Assistant United States Attorney J. Brandy Gardes is prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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